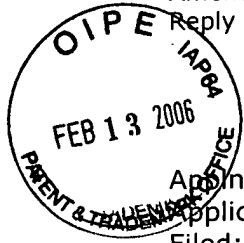


Application No.: 09/739,143
Amendment Dated: February 8, 2006
Reply to Office Communication: December 8, 2005

MAT-8070US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App'n. No: 09/739,143
Applicants: Koichi HATA, et al.
Filed: December 18, 2000
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMAGE DATA PROCESSING
AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT USED THEREIN
TC/A.U.: 2178
Examiner: Gregory J. Vaughn
Confirmation No.: 9841
Docket No.: MAT-8070US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Communication dated **December 8, 2005**, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- ☐ **Amendments to the Specification** begin on page _____ of this paper.
- ☒ **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page **2** of this paper.
- ☐ **Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page _____ of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet(s).
- ☐ **Amendments to the Abstract** are on page _____ of this paper. A clean version of the Abstract is on page _____ of this paper.
- ☒ **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page **17** of this paper.